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Mildred Louise

(Wentworth)

The 1931 Prize-Winning Gladiolus

A *Primulinus Grandiflorus*

Prevailing color a pure strawberry pink, self on upper petals with lower petals tipped strawberry pink, blending to pinard yellow in the throat, with faint spectrum red pencilings on midrib, quite deep in the throat, anthers delphinium blue. (Ridgeway color chart.)

The stem is strong and flexible but not clubby or heavy. The beautiful triangular shaped florets open wide and measure 5½ inches or more across without distortion, there are 18 to 22 buds on each spike. Florets lie close to the stem, though there is no crowding or open spaces between florets. The petals are firm and of good substance, thus making a bloom of unusual value as a cut flower. Foliage of a deep, blue green color, spikes uniformly straight. Stems rarely branch. Excellent propagator. An EXHIBITION gladiolus that is DECORATIVE and at the same time a good SHIPPER, therefore especially good as a COMMERCIAL FLOWER. Average blooming days 76. Has bloomed for us in 70 days.

MILDRED LOUISE

This the first of our seedlings to be disseminated, has been admired for years by the thousands who visit our gardens. This year, for the first time, we brought "MILDRED LOUISE" to the attention of the Gladiolus Fans through exhibiting it at the Atlantic City Flower and Garden Pageant, winning three blue ribbons, the one hundred dollar cash prize for best seedling, and special BRONZE medal; Metropolitan Gladiolus Society and Regional Exhibit American Gladiolus Society, Grand Central Palace, New York City, winning the blue ribbon in the class entered; the Michigan State Gladiolus Show, winning three blue ribbons and A. G. S. bronze medal; and also several others where first prizes were received in every class entered. (We wish here to express our thanks to Roscoe Huff, Secretary of the American Gladiolus Society; Ralph Baerman, of the Colonial Gardens, Rushford, Minn.; Harry Oven, of Vaughan Seed Company; Elmer Gove, of Champlain View Gardens, and others upon whose advice and encouragement we made our exhibit at the Eastern Shows.)

You can now grow and enjoy this new Blue Ribbon winning Gladiolus in your Garden.

Large size bulbs produce for us two or three exhibition spikes, and a corresponding number of large bulbs, besides from 25 to 250 bulblets. Many bulblets will produce a flower spike the first year.

Price No. 1 and 2 size bulbs only \$10.00 each.

Large size bulblets, \$1.00 each.

Your order for prompt or later shipment should be mailed at once, as our stock allotment for sale this season is limited.

WENTWORTH GARDENS

Gladiolus and Iris

BATTLE CREEK

MICHIGAN

(OVER)

MILDRED LOUISE

received unprecedented favorable publicity in the Flower and Garden Trade periodicals and the newspapers throughout the United States following its first appearance last fall at the Atlantic City Flower and Garden Pageant; Metropolitan Gladiolus Show, New York City and the Michigan State Gladiolus Show.

Reprinted from "Horticulture," September 15th Issue, page 388 Reporting the Atlantic City Flower Show

The competitive classes for one or more spikes were quite hotly contested, both by amateurs and professionals. It is safe to say that no finer gladioli have been shown anywhere this season. Perhaps the most remarkable feature in these classes were the three entries of Merton W. Wentworth of Battle Creek, Mich., who brought his flowers by auto and after some three days of driving was able to win with six spikes and one spike in the new seedling classes and with 12 spikes for distant exhibitors, the variety in each case being Mildred Louise, a large salmon pink *primulinus grandiflorus*.

Reprint from "Gladiolus Review," September Number, page 353, Reporting Michigan State Gladiolus Show

This was made impressive immediately upon entering the Show for a tremendous basket of a seedling which was named "Mildred Louise" from the garden of M. W. Wentworth, Battle Creek, Michigan, greeted one. Beyond question of a doubt, this seedling was the finest thing shown at Kalamazoo and while it was not scored according to the tables of American Gladiolus Society, it is the opinion of the writer that had it been entered at the National Show in Cleveland last week, it might have rated at least an Award of Merit in the Seedling Classes even though there were thirty-nine entries in the Exhibition type class, at Cleveland, for the variety was truly outstanding.

It is a beautiful salmon pink, of a slightly deeper shade than that in the variety "Betty Nuthall" which has taken Gladiolus fanciers by storm. Its form is very similar to "Betty Nuthall." The originator, Mr. Wentworth, who is treasurer of the Battle Creek Sanitarium and who hybridizes Gladiolus as a hobby, has an excellent thing in this variety though it is doubtful if it will be disseminated generally for a time at least, even though it is said the originator has a considerable stock. It was a winner in several of the color classes and baskets as well as in the Exhibition type seedling class.

Reprint from the "American Gladiolus Magazine", January Number, Page 8, under the title "Is There Nothing New Under the Sun?"

Another new one this year that looked mighty good to us all was Mildred Louise (Wentworth) shown at Kalamazoo for the first time. We compared it with Betty Nuthall and the coloring is somewhat similar. To the glory of the new one, and without criticising Nuthall, it seemed to be a bit larger and clearer. It was the outstanding variety shown in quantity at Kalamazoo, and we wished we had a basket of Nuthall to place beside it.

Reprint from "New Jersey Gardens", February Number, page 108

"You will find this Fall at the Great Atlantic City Show, the American Gladiolus Society Show, and all other shows, that Minuet, Giant Nymph, Mr. W. H. Phipps, Mrs. Leon Douglas, and Doctor Bennett will be consistent winners. Please do not think that we are opposed to new introductions. While we may be giving free advertisement, we believe that Picardy, Debonairre, Wentworth's new seedling Mildred Louise, Wasaga, and Solveig, are going to take their place along with the leaders."

You now have the opportunity to be one of the very first to secure a stock of this marvelous new gladiolus. A few bulbs now will increase to hundreds in a few seasons and yours will be the profit and satisfaction.

(OVER)